

U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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WACO MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON ON FEDERAL DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 24-year-old Odis Miles, III, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison after being convicted of possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of "crack" cocaine and use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

On March 29, 2003, a Waco police officer arrested Miles following a foot chase. At the time of the arrest, Miles was carrying a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, over 47 grams of "crack" cocaine and \$1,479 in cash. Miles pled guilty to the offenses on September 4, 2003.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the Waco Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Doug Gardner.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's new gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences. This commitment to reduce gun crime includes nationwide federal funding this year of more than \$200 million, which is used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.

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